



County Communicator

Kalamazoo County Government

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...



September 2019

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State of the County Update

On Thursday, August 22nd, Kalamazoo County Board Chair Julie Rogers, Vice Chair Tracy Hall, and County Administrator Tracie Moored presented a State of Kalamazoo County address held at the Health and Community Services Department at 311 E. Alcott Street

Highlights included the \$5 million grant awarded to the Healthy Babies Healthy Start program to improve pregnancy outcomes and reduce disparities. Chair Rogers also featured some of Kalamazoo County Government's efforts of criminal justice reform, including the opening of the new Public Defender office, relaunch of the Kalamazoo Criminal Justice Council, and ongoing efforts towards reducing the number of young adults in the county jail.

Chair Rogers, Administrator Moored, Vice Chair Hall



The new Animal Services complex was also showcased. It will open later this fall next to the current facility on Lamont Street. An outdoor dog run, separate HVAC for ill animals, and extended hours are some of the new features.

"Overall, I am very proud of the extraordinary services and programs offered at Kalamazoo County and the hard work of our staff," stated Chair Rogers. "Our state of the county is quite healthy, but there is more work to do!"

Vice Chair Tracy Hall said, "It's humbling to be a small part of Kalamazoo County Government and having the opportunity to see the hard work of staff progress into things that help to make Kalamazoo an even better place to live and work."

Follow Kalamazoo County Government



Kalamazoo County,
Michigan



County Numbers To Know

Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Airport
269-388-3668

Animal Services & Enforcement
269-383-8775

Board of Commissioners
269-384-8111

County Clerk
269-383-8840

Drain Commissioner
269-384-8117

Equalization
269-383-8960

Friend of the Court
877-543-2660

Health & Community Services
Information & Assistance
269-373-5173

Office of Prosecuting Attorney
269-383-8900

Parks Department
269-383-8778

Planning & Development Dept.
269-384-8112

Probate Court
269-383-8666

Road Commission
269-381-3171

Sheriff Department
269-385-6173

Treasurer
269-384-8124

Veterans Service Office
269-373-5361

Kalamazoo County Board Of Commissioners

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Stephanie Moore
Stephanie.Moore@kalcounty.com
District 1

Tracy Hall, Vice Chair
Tracy.Hall@kalcounty.com
District 3

Julie Rogers, Chair
Julie.Rogers@kalcounty.com
District 5

Roger Tuinier
Roger.Tuinier@kalcounty.com
District 7

Christine Morse
Christine.Morse@kalcounty.com
District 9

Meredith Place
Meredith.Place@kalcounty.com
District 11

Meeting Dates & Times:

Committee of the Whole @ 4:00pm
Board of Commissioners @ 7:00pm

-  September 3rd
-  September 17th
-  October 1st
-  October 15th

[Meeting Agendas, Packets & Minutes](#) <http://www.kalcounty.com/board/meetings/>

Community Update Videos

Community Update videos from Board Chair Julie Rogers discussing recent KCG topics and upcoming Committee of the Whole and Board of Commissioners agenda and meeting highlights are available on line at:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/board/communityupdates.php>

Are you interested in getting involved in county government? Join an Advisory Board or Commission!

The Kalamazoo County Government Board of Commissioners values residents who are interested in serving their community. There are more than [25 advisory boards and commissions](#) at KCG. Click here to view: [current openings on KCG Advisory Boards & Commissions](#)

Paul Haag
Paul.Haag@kalcounty.com
District 2

Michael Seals
Michael.Seals@kalcounty.com
District 4

Currently Vacant
District 6

John Gisler
John.Gisler@kalcounty.com
District 8

Mike Quinn
Mike.Quinn@kalcounty.com
District 10

Not sure what district you're in? Click on the District links for a detailed map.

Meetings are held at the:

County Administration Building
201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue
2nd Floor in the Chambers
Kalamazoo MI 49007

The meetings can be viewed live or on demand at:

Kalamazoo County Services A - Z

Each month a county service or program is featured to better serve you! You can also visit a directory of [Services from A - Z](#) on the Kalamazoo County website. If there is a particular service or program you'd like to learn more about, send an email: communications@kalcounty.com.



Where do I get a copy of my birth certificate if born in Kalamazoo County?

A: Kalamazoo County Clerk's Office
County Administration Building
201 W Kalamazoo Avenue, Room 103
269-383-8840

The County Clerk's office requires a valid driver's license or state issued ID as identification for birth certificate requests. Fees are \$15 for the 1st copy of record and \$5 for additional copies. For additional information visit the kalcounty website: www.kalcounty.com/clerk

Kalamazoo County Disaster Committee Receives Certificates of Appreciation



From left to right: Colonel Sean Southworth, MNG; John Mathieson, RACES; Jeff Parsons, HCS; Jim Miles, HazMat; Mike Corfman, EM; Dick VanderWeele, Salvation Army; Rick Winters, 5th District Medical Response Coalition

Representatives of the Michigan National Guard (MNG) stopped by the August 7th Disaster Committee meeting to express their appreciation to Kalamazoo County for their participation in their annual exercise, Northern Exposure, which was held within Region 5 earlier this year. Kalamazoo County's participation in the Exercise was held at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds with representatives from the Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management, R.A.C.E.S., Salvation Army, Red Cross, Health & Community Services, HazMat Team, Life EMS, Pride Care EMS, Kalamazoo Township Fire, and 5th District Medical Response Coalition participating. Colonel Sean Southworth, MNG presented Certificates of Appreciation to each of the entities involved.

Transformational Brownfield Plan approved for Vicksburg Paper Mill Redevelopment

On Tuesday, July 23, 2019, the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) approved a combined Transformational Brownfield Plan and Act 381 Work Plan for the mixed use redevelopment project located in the Village of Vicksburg and Schoolcraft Township. The Transformational Brownfield Plan approval allows for a multi-layered incentive package that includes construction period withholding tax capture, construction period sales and use tax exemptions, state income tax capture and withholding tax capture revenues, and property tax capture that will be used to reimburse the developer for eligible project expenses.

This is the second Transformational Brownfield Plan the MSF Board has approved since the program was created in 2017, and the first in a community the size of Vicksburg. Paper City Development, LLC is investing more than \$50 million to rehabilitate the historic mill and surrounding property into a mixed use development that will include a brewery, craft beverage space, retail, office, and residential opportunities.



Board Chair Julie Rogers stated, “I am so proud of our Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, staff, partners and developer Chris Morse’s hard work and vision over many years to achieve this special status. We are only the 2nd county in the state to receive this prestigious TIF award. These public-private partnerships truly are transforming our county!”

The incentives totaling \$30 million, are based on an independent, third-party analysis conducted by the University of Michigan Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. The findings indicated the estimated state-benefit-to-incentive ratio is \$2.30 for every \$1 of incentive. The redevelopment is expected to bring 221 jobs to Vicksburg and have a transformational impact on local development and community revitalization in the Village of Vicksburg and the Greater Kalamazoo community.

Sharps Collection Service Offered at HCS

Residents can dispose of used hypodermic needles and syringes, called “sharps,” at the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department’s (HCS) building at 311 E. Alcott Street. The box is located in the lobby.



“The improper disposal of medical waste in household trash is harmful to our environment and a potential public health threat to all residents,” said James Rutherford, Health Officer at HCS. “Offering residents a safe and secure option for disposing of their needles, syringes and lancets improves the health for all in Kalamazoo County. We are thankful for the partnership with HNHS in helping our residents to properly dispose of used sharps.”

Engagement Opportunities with Commissioners



Opportunities to meet with Kalamazoo County Commissioners over coffee. Discuss topics of interest, ask questions, be involved!

Commissioner Meredith Place & Commissioner Mike Quinn
District 11 & District 10

Biggby Coffee, 6800 S Westnedge Ave, Portage, MI 49002
Saturday, September 28th, 2019



6th Annual Gryphon Place Suicide Prevention Walk



The 6th annual Gryphon Place Suicide Prevention Walk is scheduled for **Saturday, September 28th at Arcadia Creek Festival Place in downtown Kalamazoo**. The 5K cause-walk will raise awareness for suicide prevention, allow people to connect with each other, and provide critical funds for Gryphon Place. 100% of the community-raised dollars stay here in the community, supporting the local programs and services we offer. We'll be there together on September 28th, supporting suicide prevention one step at a time, and we would love for you to join us.

Walk to support your community. Walk to support each other. Walk to support your loved ones. Walk to break stigma, to raise awareness, to educate, to connect, and to save lives.

Adult Mental Health First Aid Training FREE @ Gryphon Place

Monday, September 9th 8:15am – 4:30pm
Gryphon Place, 3245 S. 8th Street, Kzoo 49009

Gryphon Place is sponsoring an Adult Mental Health First Aid class (MHFA), taught by KCMHSAS. Participants will learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

safeTALK Training FREE @ Gryphon Place

Thursday, September 12th from 9:00am – 12:00pm
Gryphon Place 3245 S. 8th Street, Kzoo 49009

safeTALK is a half-day alertness training that prepares anyone age 15 or older, regardless of prior experience or training, to become a suicide-alert helper. Most people with thoughts of suicide don't truly want to die, but are struggling with the pain in their lives. safeTALK-trained helpers can recognize these invitations and take action by connecting them with life-saving intervention resources, such as caregivers trained in ASIST.

For additional information, contact Gryphon Place at (269) 381-1510
or visit their website at: <https://www.gryphon.org/>

Emergency Preparedness - Do 1 Thing

Part 6 in the Series: Be Aware of Unique Family Needs

Do1Thing is a national program that has helped countless community members, families, and individuals prepare for emergencies and disasters. Do1Thing is a call to action. This is the sixth in a twelve-part series to assist you in organizing your family to formulate a plan for disaster and emergency preparedness. Visit www.do1thing.com for additional information.

Unique Family Needs

Every household is different. Is there an infant or young child in your home? Does someone in your family have a medical condition that requires medication? Do you have a pet? Before disaster strikes, talk to your family about your household's unique needs. Make a list of special items you may need in a disaster.



do 1 thing
SMALL STEPS TOWARD BEING PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

Unique Family Needs

THE GOAL: Be aware of and prepare for your family's unique needs.

Every household is different. Is there an infant or young child in your home? Does someone in your family have a medical condition that requires medication? Do you have a pet? Before disaster strikes, talk to your family about your household's unique needs. Make a list of special items you may need in a disaster.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH TO BECOME BETTER PREPARED:

Talk with family members to identify your household's unique needs.

What kinds of things can members of your household not be without for 72 hours? Here are some examples of things that can create unique needs for your family:

- Infants and young children
- Prescription medication (keep a three day supply with you)
- Health-related supplies (For example, diabetics need insulin syringes, alcohol wipes, and glucometer supplies)
- Assistive devices (glasses, canes, etc.)
- Pets

When you are in a hurry, it is easy to overlook small and important items. Common items like diapers and pet food might not be easy to find right after a disaster. Trying new brands of food or formula, or not having a comfort item, can make disasters more stressful for both children and pets.

Talk to your kids about what to do in a fire, a medical emergency, or a disaster. Make sure they know where emergency supplies are kept, how (and when) to call 911, and who to call if they can't reach you in an emergency.

THE MISSION OF DO 1 THING IS TO MOVE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR ALL HAZARDS AND BECOME DISASTER RESILIENT do1thing.com

Make a plan to make sure pets are taken care of in a disaster.

A disaster may happen while you are away from home. Your neighborhood may be evacuated, or you could be trapped somewhere else and unable to get home. Consider asking a trusted neighbor to check on your pets if you can't get home because of a disaster or emergency. You may also ask them to take your pets with them if an evacuation is ordered while you are not home. Make sure they are comfortable with your pet, and that they know where to find leashes and other supplies.

Remember, pets are not allowed in most emergency shelters. Talk to your local animal control agency or humane society about options for sheltering your pet in a disaster.

If you or someone in your household has a disability, create an evacuation plan that works for them.

People with disabilities are more affected by disaster than others in the community. Accessible services might not be available. Hazards like wildfire, floods, and hurricanes can lead to evacuations. If you have a disability and you live in an area where these things can happen, make sure you have an evacuation plan:

- Make sure you are signed up for any emergency notification systems your community offers. Some notification systems will only call landline phones. If you use a cell phone, you may have to sign up separately.
- Paratransit services may not be available once a disaster happens. Talk to your paratransit provider now to find out what services they can provide when evacuation is ordered.
- If paratransit services aren't available, arrange for someone else to pick you up if an evacuation is ordered. Make sure they will come for you UNLESS you tell them not to. That way there won't be any confusion when the time comes. If you can't evacuate, call 911 to let them know your location.
- Talk to your local Red Cross chapter or other organizations who provide emergency sheltering in your community. Make sure that your needs can be met in an emergency shelter. Think about accessible entrances and bathrooms. What methods of communicating with shelter staff, medical services or assistive devices will you need? If you have a service animal, talk to them about what they can provide for the animal. Find out what you need to bring with you. Make sure you have batteries or a charger for any assistive devices in your emergency kit.

THE MISSION OF DO 1 THING IS TO MOVE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR ALL HAZARDS AND BECOME DISASTER RESILIENT do1thing.com

- Tasks:**
- ~ Talk with family members to identify your unique needs
 - ~ Make a plan to ensure pets are taken care of in a disaster
 - ~ If someone in your household has a disability, create an evacuation plan that works for them

Goal for the month: Be aware of and prepare for your family's unique needs.

Family Fun In Kalamazoo County

40th Annual NSRA Street Rod Nationals North

Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street
September 13 - September 15

Friday - Saturday, 8am - 5pm/ Sunday, 8am - 1pm

See more than 2,500 street rods, muscle cars, custom cars, trucks and specialty vehicles all thirty years old and older. Plus manufacturer exhibits, arts & crafts, vintage parts, swap meet, live entertainment, good food and a whole lot more!



Fall into Magic

Hayloft Theatre, 7334 Garden Lane, Portage, MI
Friday, September 20th -6:00 pm

Abracadabra! See local magician, Brian Penny at the Hayloft Theatre, along with a visit from the Kalamazoo Ghost Busters and a couple friends from a galaxy far, far away. Every child will receive a chance to win a private magic lesson for one, taught by Brian Penny himself. Each child will also receive a FREE magic trick. Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Portage Community Center. Entrance is free but requires a ticket. Tickets can be obtained at Portage Parks & Recreation (7900 South Westnedge Avenue).



The Mom to Mom Sale

Kalamazoo County Main Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street
Saturday, September 21st - 8:00am - 1:00pm

The largest mom to mom sale this Fall. Find everything you need for the kids in one place including gently used kids clothing, toys, books, and furniture along with baby and maternity items! Sign up to sell or shop and save hundreds! Strollers welcome. And while you are at the Mom to Mom Sale visit the



Mom 2 Mom
SALE

The Fall Craft Show

Kalamazoo County Expo South, 2900 Lake Street
Saturday, September 21st - 9:00am - 3:00pm

Join us for a great day of shopping 100 booths filled with unique local artists, crafters, and vendors. Admission is free.

KCAN Super Hero Run/Walk

Celery Flats, 7366 Garden Lane, Portage, MI
Saturday, September 28th - 9:00am - 12:00pm

This family-friendly event welcomes all ages and kicks off with a free 1K fun run for children followed by a 5K run/walk for the whole family. Superhero costumes are encouraged! Games, snacks, mascots and photo opportunities galore! The event helps raise awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention throughout Kalamazoo County. Proceeds benefit the Kalamazoo County Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council (KCAN).





All Kalamazoo County
Offices & Courts will be
closed in observance of
Labor Day

Monday, September 2nd

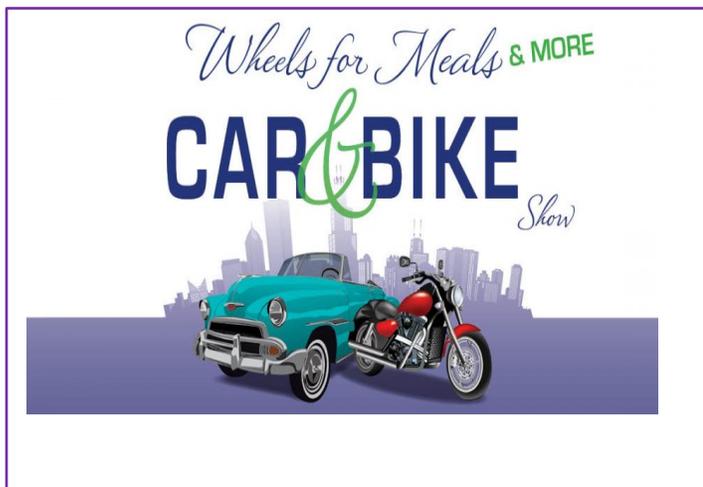
The Kalamazoo County Youth Fair was a community highlight again this year. We would like to thank MSU Extension and the 4-H program for their displays and competitions; the Parks Department for hosting, planning and maintaining the Fair; the Sheriff's Department patrols for providing security; and all the other county departments that exhibited and participated in making this annual event a success. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Fair this year! We hope to see you again in 2020!



Kalamazoo County Communicator

At Kalamazoo County Government, we want to keep our residents informed of what's going on inside their local government. That's why we created the Kalamazoo County Communicator in 2017. It's a vehicle for information about county services and events, important messages from county officials and behind-the-scene glimpses at how government works. You can find the Kalamazoo County Communicator on our website at <http://www.kalcounty.com/newsletters.php>

Or through our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyGovernment>. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, email communications@kalcounty.com with the subject line "send me the Communicator". That's also the place to send questions and comments about this newsletter and its content. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.



Senior Services of Southwest Michigan presents the

First Annual Car & Bike Show Event

Help raise funds for Senior Services.

A driving force for their independence!

<https://seniorservices1.org/wheels-for-meals/>

Saturday, September 14, 2019
Registration: 8am to 9am, Show Time 9am to 3pm
918 Jasper St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001
269-382-0515

Find Us online!

Whether you're looking for jobs, the latest news and events at Kalamazoo County, or to contact a specific department, online is a great way to stay updated or get in touch with us. Visit our website at www.kalcounty.com You can also find us on Facebook, YouTube, & LinkedIn.

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